



# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

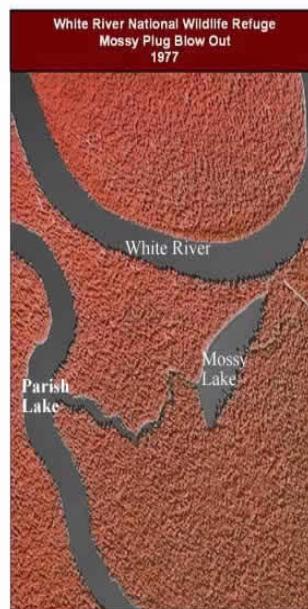
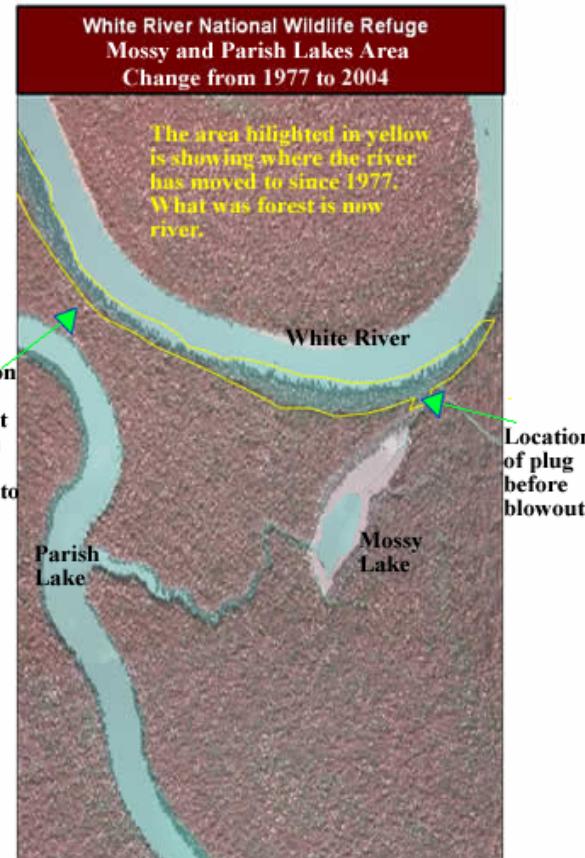
## White River National Wildlife Refuge Mossy Lake Blowout and Repair Fact Sheet

### THE ISSUE

Mossy Lake, Parish Lakes, and East Moon Lake areas are well known as productive fisheries favored by many local fishermen. However, with the loss of Mossy Lake's natural soil bank located between Mossy Lake and the White River some 25-years ago, maintenance of the areas hydrology has been increasingly challenging. Following the first loss of hydrologic stability, the US Army Corp of Engineers helped establish an artificial plug of stone to prevent the draining of the 4 lakes into the river. However, since that time the White River has carved itself more than 35 yards into the bank and flood waters from a severe rain event 7 years ago removed the stone plug. Since this time, the Refuge has been working to develop a solution and obtain the necessary funding to restore the lake system. Since the failure of the artificial plug, the refuge staff has hosted numerous investigatory trips to the site with various partners including the US Army Corp of Engineers, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, The Nature Conservatory, and most recently the Tennessee Valley Authority.

### THE SOLUTION

It is now obvious that simply restoring the plug at the junction of Mossy Lake and the White River would only be a temporary fix. In addition to this problem area, a second spot approximately a half-mile down stream is being abnormally eroded due to what is known as a headcut erosion. This form of erosion is caused by the outflow of water from the lake into the river in the form of a water fall. The energy of the falling water erodes the soft soil and quickly forms a small valley within the rivers bank. This erosion possibly began due to boat motors dragging on the bottom as anglers motored between the river and the lake during periods of high water. But regardless of the erosion source, the White River is within 90 yards of breaking into Parish Lake. Currently the refuge staff along with engineers from the Tennessee Valley Authority are trying to develop a final solution along with cost estimates that can be used to acquire funding.



# Additional Photos and

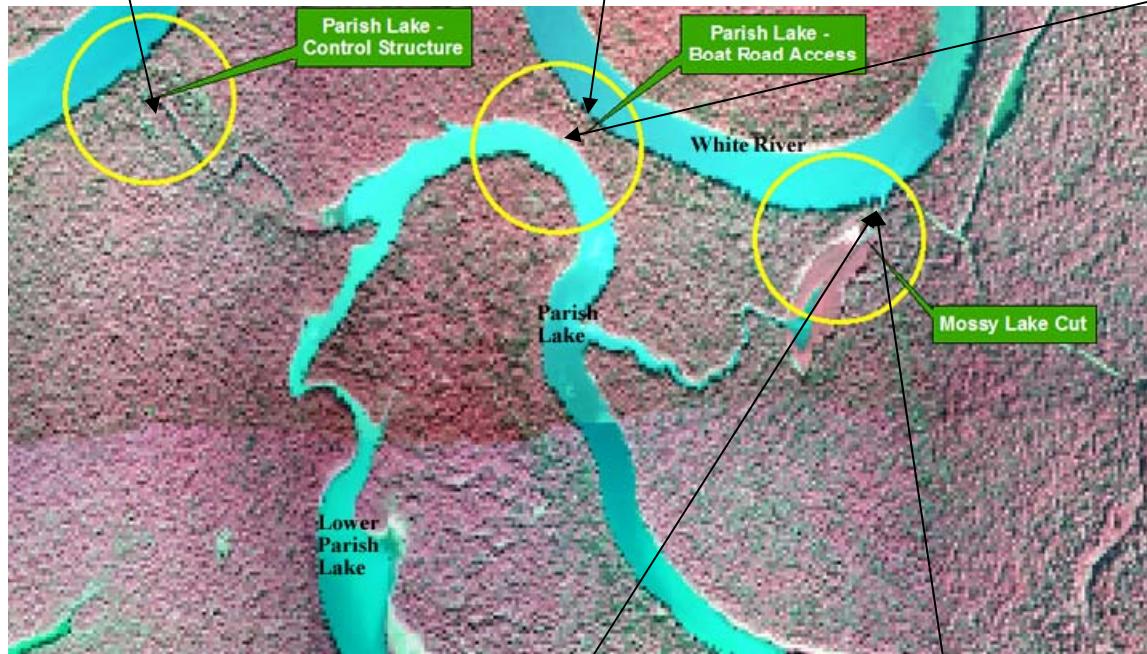
Water control structure at Parish Lake. This structure will be redesigned to control the water levels for the area.



This is called the "boat road." When the water level is up on the White River, this low spot inadvertently connects the White River to Parish Lake.



The "boat road" as it cuts through to Parish Lake. The man on right is on the old road and the left is the new cut.



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Mossy Lake plug blowout looking towards Mossy Lake.



Location of where plug at Mossy Lake was located after blow out. View is looking towards the White River.